

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 16, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 13-15 and 18 were pending, and rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 13-15 and 18. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, claims 4, 8, 10-13, 16 and 17 stand canceled, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 14, 15 and 18 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 13-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Shaffer. Page 4 of the Office Action rejects claims 6, 7 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Shaffer and ServiceMerchandise.com.

Shaffer is discusses a system that includes a Zip Code in a Linkage Key where the Linkage Key is used to "associate real-time information located in multiple databases or network notes" (col. 5, lines 32-34) in a comparison effort reduction operation (col. 6, lines 4-10). The Zip Code is part of a 12 digit Delivery Point Code which is geographical hierarchical code representing a delivery address (col. 5, lines 36-42). In locating a closest retail location to a current client location Shaffer states:

An example of the later case is finding the closest retail location to the current client location where the client is using a portable computer connected to the network and the computer has a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receiver. The client computer sends the client's current latitude and longitude that has been determined by the GPS receiver. The latitude and longitude coordinates are converted to a quad-tree Linkage Key. This Linkage Key is matched to the quad-tree Linkage Key assigned to each of the store locations. At a specified hierarchical level of quad-tree match, let us assume for this example that there are four possible candidate stores that could be the closest to the client. A distance calculation is performed using the current client latitude and longitude and the latitude and longitude of each of the four candidate stores to determine the distance front the current client location to each of the four stores. The store with the short distance is determined to be the closest store and the information related to this store is passed back to the client.

(See Shaffer, col. 6, lines 10-28)

As discussed above Shaffer uses the client GPS location to find a closet store.

In contrast, the present invention uses the client address (see claims 1 and 18), a more efficient process. The present invention also performs a matching process that looks for exact match, an n digit match and then a range match (see claims 1 and 18). Shaffer does not teach or suggest such.

ServiceMerchandise.com discusses allowing a user to see whether an item is in stock. This reference adds nothing to Shaffer with respect to the feature of the invention discussed above.

It is submitted that the invention of independent claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 5 emphasizes sorting the information provided to the client by proximity, something not taught or suggested by the prior art. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.


It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501